

VICTORIA, V. I., THURSDAY MORNING, APRIL 19, 1866.

NO. 108.

VOL. 15.

NOTICES.

NOTICE.

I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE THAT FROM
I and after this date I will not be answerable to
any debts incurred by Henry Gibb (my late
steeward), in my name.

A. J. INNES,
Commander.

H. M. S. ALERT, Esquimalt, 11th April, 1866.

NOTICE.

Mr. J. G. NORRIS IS AUTHORIZED TO
COLLECT ALL OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS DUE TO THE
ESTATE OF W. M. SCARBY, AND UNLESS THE DEBTS ARE PAID AT ONCE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE TAKEN TO ENFORCE
PAYMENT.

W. C. WARD,
MATTHEW T. JOHNSTON,
Assurees.

NOTICE.

RE ARCHIBALD MATHESON, A BANKRUPT.
A M. PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST
THE ESTATE OF W. M. SCARBY, AND UNLESS THE DEBTS ARE PAID AT ONCE PROCEEDINGS WILL BE TAKEN TO ENFORCE
PAYMENT.

NOTICE.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

Thursday Morning, April 19, 1866.

To Advertisers & the Public

THE DAILY BRITISH COLONIST
published every morning (Sunday excepted) is the largest and most widely circulated journal in Her Majesty's Possessions on the Pacific.

Resident Subscribers may have the same let at the rate of 10 cents per week, by furnishing their address to the Office of Publication.

THE WEEKLY BRITISH COLONIST, published every Tuesday, will be mailed or left at the residence of Subscribers, ready for mailing, at 10 cents per week, payable to the carrier.

JOB PRINTING.

THE BRITISH COLONIST PUBlishing Company having received a large number of orders for printing and toping type, will execute orders of any extent with neatness and despatch, at a slight advance on San Francisco prices.

UNIQUE REMEDIES.

Of all the acts on the statute book of Vancouver Island the Real Estate Act is the most imperfect in its provisions, and the most loosely carried out. It gives as much trouble to the Government as it does to the holder of town lots; it depreciates the value of property and encourages land owners to postpone the payment of their taxes until compelled by the Sheriff. The only class of persons in the community it really benefits, or is likely to benefit, is the lawyers, who will reap in the course of time a bountiful harvest of litigation. To remedy the evil the most effective way was to repeal the act altogether, and supply its place with a municipal system of taxation, simple and equitable in its character. The House has already adopted the former part of the scheme, and the principle of the latter part has been sustained by the second reading of the general municipal bill. The remedy is not at the past, but at the present and future. On Monday last, however, a bill of a very different description was introduced by Mr. Cochrane, and passed through its various stages in one day. Mr. Cochrane complained that the Government had not carried out the provisions of the Real Estate Act—that owners of landed property had been dealt with unjustly; that proper notice had not been given them in regard to the taxes due on their real estate, in regard to the property put up at auction by the Sheriff, and in regard to the property sold for non-payment of taxes. There is no doubt Mr. Cochrane made out a very good case against the Government. He showed clearly enough that they had neglected some of the most important stipulations of the Act. But two wrongs do not make a right. The fact that a law is bad and badly administered, scarcely justifies a Legislative Assembly overriding all law and ignoring all contracts. Mr. Cochrane's bill is nothing less than an *ex post facto* measure—and it is saying little for the intelligence of the members of the Assembly who voted for it to announce that they sanctioned such an absurdity.

There may be some of our readers unacquainted with the history of the affair, and for the information of such we will give the matter briefly. In April last a number of lots were sold by the Sheriff for taxes, which had been a very long time due to the Government—a much longer time, indeed, than the act allowed. The terms of purchase were cash, with the stipulation that should the owner of a lot or part of a lot sold refund to the purchaser, before the expiration of twelve months, the amount paid the Sheriff with twenty per cent. added, the purchaser should relinquish his claim to the property; if, however, the money was not so paid, then the purchaser, at the expiration of a year, was to receive from the Sheriff a title to the lot or part of a lot purchased. Now it is quite clear that under such an arrangement no person, in a country where money is worth from two to three per cent. a month, would think of investing his capital in an auction sale that would only return him twenty per cent. at the end of the year. It was the chance that the property might not be redeemed before the expiration of twelve months that induced nearly every purchaser to buy. Under any circumstance the Government made a deliberate contract with these persons, which cannot be broken. The money with the twenty per cent. interest was to be paid at the end of the year, or the title deed was to be given. Mr. Cochrane's bill, however, ignores the contract altogether—it gives neither the title nor the money to the purchaser, but compels him to wait another year, and offers him an increased interest. As well might the hon. gentleman have brought a bill to make the purchasers pay double the amount they were required to pay at the time of sale. If a solemn engagement with the people, entered into publicly by the Government, is to be overridden by an Act of the Legislature, there is an end to all good faith in the administration of affairs. On the very same principle could the Assembly to-morrow pass a bill repudiating our public indebtedness. No graver injustice would be perpetrated in the one case than in the other. It is, however, not merely the injustice of the thing that is so conceivable—it is the crushing blow that is aimed at the honor of the Government. If such a measure became law, lots might be put up for sale in vain; for the Government would never more be trusted. No man making a contract of any kind with the authorities would feel himself safe. A general mistrust would indeed enter into every dealing with the Government.

The bill passed its second reading yesterday in the Council after a very stormy debate; but we perceive its whole character is to be changed in Committee. The amendments to be proposed by the Colonial Secretary or Attorney General, authorising the Treasurer to stand in the position of the owners of the property sold, and redeem the lots before the expiration of the twelve months, get rid no doubt of the objectionable and unconstitutional features of Mr. Cochrane's measure, but they expose the Government and the Legislature to unmeasured ridicule, and are a tacit confession that the Executive has acted very imprudently in the matter from beginning to end. We shall, however, from discussing the merits of the Government scheme until the amendments shall have been introduced.

PIANO.
For Sale or Hire.

A SWEET TONED KELKHAM'S COTage Piano, 7 Octaves, nearly new.

Apply to JULIAN B. HARRIES.

Queen Charlotte Coal Mining Company, LIMITED.

THE ORDINARY MEETING of this Company will be held on the 1st day of May, 1866. At the business is important all ought to attend.

ap10

JOHN H. WILLIAMS, ROGER WILLIAMS.

ap10

THE BRITISH COLONIST

Thursday Morning, April 19, 1866.

COMMERCIAL

AUCTION SALES THIS DAY.
DANIEL SCOTT & CO. will sell, at 12 o'clock noon, in the yard opposite their auction rooms, Michel Coys, Horses, Steer and Oxen; also, the Snow Trial, 60 tons burlap.

SHIPPERS.

Per steamer THAMES, to Honolulu, S.I.—J.R. Stewart, 190,000 feet lumber; Hudson Bay Co., Janion, Green & Rhodes, Henderson & Burnaby, dry goods, iron, blankets, champagne.

MANUFACTURERS.

ENTERED.
April 18—Slip Angelina, Jackley, Port Angeles.

CLEARED.

April 18—Schooner Matilda, Greenwood, N.W.—Ship Princess Royal, Marshall, London, St. California, Butters, San Francisco.

FOUNDED DROWNED.—Yesterday morning at eight o'clock a little orphan half-breed boy, eight years of age, the adopted child of Mr. Gorriton, baker of Humboldt street, was discovered drowned in a deep well in the rear of the premises. The boy had been missing the previous evening. At 2 p.m. an inquest was held in the Police Court before the Police Magistrate and a jury with Mr. Fell as foreman. Mr. Gorriton was examined, but could not throw any light upon the manner in which the deceased came by his death. A young boy named Moses deposited that he last saw deceased in company with two Indians, a boy and a girl. One of the boys was from San Juan Island, was staying with the deceased, and driving him in the vicinity of the well by holding the back of his coat. The jury having inspected the body and the well, which had a small opening at the top just sufficient to admit the body, at the suggestion of the magistrate returned an open verdict of "found drowned," leaving it to the police to institute further inquiry with a view to ascertaining whether any foul play had been used. The jury concluded with the verdict a man's eye open, which manifested the law by driving their wells exposed. On the way to Bacon Hill there is a dangerous well left quite open, into which a little boy fell a short time ago and had a narrow escape of his life.

A FANCY HOLD.—The Pacific Commercial Advertiser of Honolulu has the following:—"On discharging the cargo of the bark A. A. Eldridge from Portland, the temperature of her hold was found to be unusually cold, and everything that came out of it appeared half frozen. On Tuesday the cause was discovered, for in breaking out the lumber it was found actually frozen together, so that a crowbar was necessary to separate the planks, the ice around which was an inch or more thick. Several buckets full of ice were secured by the native natives, who enjoyed it with a little fresh cider—after a long wagon. It seems that while loaded at Portland during a heavy storm, and the planks were stayed away in her hold covered with snow and ice, which remained compact till brought out into sunlight on the wharf here. The apples, though over forty days on board, were discharged in fine order, and notwithstanding the liberal supply were all taken with rapidity. The trade with Portland is a valuable one, and if there was some way to avoid the lengthy detours almost always encountered in the Columbia river, waiting for cargo, etc., it would be more profitable. The Eldridge had loaded these two weeks past, similar detours are not unusual. Direct the trade this way, so that coal and lumber are to be had in any quantity at short notice, with no dangerous bars to cross or river navigation to encounter."—Ed. Col.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—This body met yesterday. Present—the Hon. Chief Justice (presiding), Colonial Secretary, Attorney General, Donald Fraser, H. Rhodes, Mr. Cochrane's bill to amend the Real Estate Tax Act came up for second reading and elicited a lengthy and stormy debate from the hon. Colonial Secretary, Attorney General and H. Rhodes, and the hon. Chief Justice and D. Fraser against the measure. The bill, however, was not amended in Committee, and should then suggest that the Treasurer of the Colony be authorized to redeem the lands sold by the Sheriff for arrears of taxes within the year, and to pay the 20 per cent. allowed by law, such payments to form a charge on the property. The second reading was finally carried.

BALL IN THE LYCEUM HALL.—The second annual ball given by Mrs. Digby Palmer yesterday by the dancing class came off last evening, and was highly successful. The various pupils and a host of their friends attended and danced with a genuine relish and animation to most excellent music provided by Messrs. Palmer, Sandiford, Bassell, Foreman and others. At midnight a good supper was laid out in the Hotel de France, which was also discussed with a good relish, after dancing was resumed and not allowed to flag until the programme and the dances were both exhausted. The stewards acquitted themselves to the entire satisfaction of their fair friends, and all the arrangements gave satisfaction.

THE BARK T. W. LUCAS, from San Francisco, got into port yesterday, and moored alongside the Hudson Bay Company's wharf.

FELL & CO.—Are prepared to supply miners and travellers with every description of groceries and provisions put up in convenient sized packages for transmission to any part of this or the sister Colony, at the lowest Free Port prices. Particular attention is paid to the selection of goods for the Big Bend and Bridge River markets, and parties desiring procure supplies for those mines may rely upon getting superior articles at our store. Coffee roasted and prepared on an improved principle; and Spices, guaranteed free from adulteration, may be had in any desired quantity. FELL & CO., Pacific and Spine Merchants, and Family Grocers, Yates street, Victoria, V. I.

NEW WESTMINSTER.—Miners and others going to Big Bend or Bridge River will find Hicks' Hotel (which is now kept by W. E. Stein, formerly of the Hot Springs), one of the best and cleanest houses in the city.—Meals and Beds at 50 cents each, and Drunks 12½ cents. * 3m

CAUTION TO MINERS GOING TO BIG BEND.—No one should start for those mines without being quite sure that his teeth are in good order. F. W. Cave, Dentist, Trounce Alley, opposite the Colonist office, is still practising his profession at English prices. *

PRINCE OF WALES.—Oxford Hats, received per "Dominga" from Townsend & Co., London.—A fine invoice of the above very stylish and fashionable Hats.—ADAMS, Pioneer Hatter, Government street and Trounce Alley.

MR. W. D. Moses will remain in Victoria until April 20th, and will be happy to wait upon ladies and gentlemen who may require his services at their residences. *

THE LOSS OF THE LABOUCHERE

The interest manifested by the public on the arrival of the Enterprise yesterday to learn further particulars regarding the loss of this steamer was intense, and no sooner had the whistle, heralding her approach, sounded than the Company's wharf was thronged with people.

The carrier of the *Columbian* and the reporters of the press were besieged with inquiries, but were unable to throw further light upon the disaster, as the wires were down, and the only dispatch published in the *Columbian* was the same as had previously reached us from Seattle.

TELEGRAPHIC.

[FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIAN.]

Fearful Explosion in San Francisco.

TWO BUILDINGS BLOWN TO ATOMS

Other Property Badly Injured.

SEVERAL LIVES LOST.

Many Seriously Injured.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17, 1866. 3:59 p.m. Received 5:50 p.m. 17th.

To Guy, RICH.—Labouchere struck a rock at Point Reyes Saturday night, and sank in 60 fathoms water Sunday morning—all hands saved. W. L. Bookner.

From the above we may infer that the Labouchere struck the reef of rock lying some distance off Point Reyes, as we may state, and remained there all Saturday night. On Sunday morning (probably at 6 a.m. water) she got off but soon after found in deep water. The most satisfactory part of the telegram (if anything chorusing can be found in it) is the announcement that "all hands were saved."

There is little doubt, now, that a portion of the cargo can have been saved. Of the manner in which the passengers and crew effected their escape and what became of the colonial mails we are still in the dark. Our New Westminster contemporary asserts that seven bags of British Columbian mails were lost, but the authority is not given for the statement.

We are informed that the amount for which the Labouchere was insured was very much less than that stated in our issue of yesterday; and that the cost of the recent improvements at San Francisco is yet unknown, the work not having been done under contract.

SPEAKER COFLAX'S LETTER.—The correspondent of the *Union* from New York, writes that "Schuyler Colfax's lecture on the Overland journey is the popular entertainment of the winter. He has given it twice, a few weeks apart in New York, to audiences which bubbled over the brim of the immense Cooper Institute, and filled every street. He has declined all offers and seventy-three invitations to enlighten us the people of cities and hamlets from Maine to Iowa, and New York to Virginia. One hundred that he can refuse without a sigh to open that white palm for \$20,000. The sum has a comfortable sound.—Oregonian.

FROM NEW WESTMINSTER.—The steamer Enterprise, Captain Swanson, arrived yesterday from Fraser river, bringing an express and a few passengers, among whom was Mr. D. M. Lang, Manager of the Bank of British Columbia. Mr. F. J. Barnard, of Express notoriety, came down on the Lilfoot. The Customs receipts at New Westminster for the week ending Saturday, April 14th, were:—Duties, \$4,038 23; harbor dues, \$78 16; headmoney, \$116; tonnage dues, \$362 50; fees, \$1. Total, \$4,581 92. Number of passengers entering at this port during same period, 116.

TO THE HON. W. H. COOK.—The Hudson Bay's steamer Labouchere, hence for Victoria, struck the reef at Point Reyes at 10:30 p.m., Saturday. The vessel is a total loss. She had on board about 100 passengers, all of whom, with the exception of two, were saved.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—The Hudson Bay's steamer Labouchere, hence for Victoria, struck the reef at Point Reyes at 10:30 p.m., Saturday. The vessel is a total loss. She had on board about 100 passengers, all of whom, with the exception of two, were saved.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

SECOND DISPATCH.

L. E. Webster, head of the New York Express Department, is missing. The dead body of four persons, in addition to those named, have been found.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 16.—The Hudson Bay's steamer Labouchere, hence for Victoria, struck the reef at Point Reyes at 10:30 p.m., Saturday. The vessel is a total loss. She had on board about 100 passengers, all of whom, with the exception of two, were saved.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

W. S. Ilavens, of the P. M. S. Co., is among the missing. Messrs. Sanders & Stacey, of the Express Office, are badly injured, the latter very seriously. From six to twelve other persons are supposed to have been killed.

SAVANA FERRY.—The Assay Office and a portion of the Express Building were demolished. Window sashes and glass were shattered in buildings in adjoining blocks. The most intense excitement exists throughout the city, and a posse of policemen have been stationed about the Express Office to keep the crowd back. It is supposed that some workmen are still buried beneath the ruins of the Assay Office. The bodies of two have already been recovered.

THIRD DISPATCH.

